

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Weekly Report  
July 16, 1999

Practice Patterns in Children's Mental Health

The measurement and comparison of "practice patterns" in mental health services is one of the three primary objectives of the Vermont Performance Indicator project. For the next few weeks, our weekly PIP mailings will provide a series of overviews of community mental health practice patterns in Vermont. This week the focus is on Children's Services Programs.

The attached graphs and tables provide historical and cross-sectional overviews of the type and amount of service reported to the Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services by designated community providers. From an historical perspective, the most striking change is the tremendous growth in case management as a treatment modality. The amount of respite care has increased substantially in recent years as well. The number of residential days and the number of individual and group treatment hours have actually decreased over the past three years.

Viewed from a cross-sectional perspective, it is apparent that there are substantial differences in the practice patterns followed at different community programs.

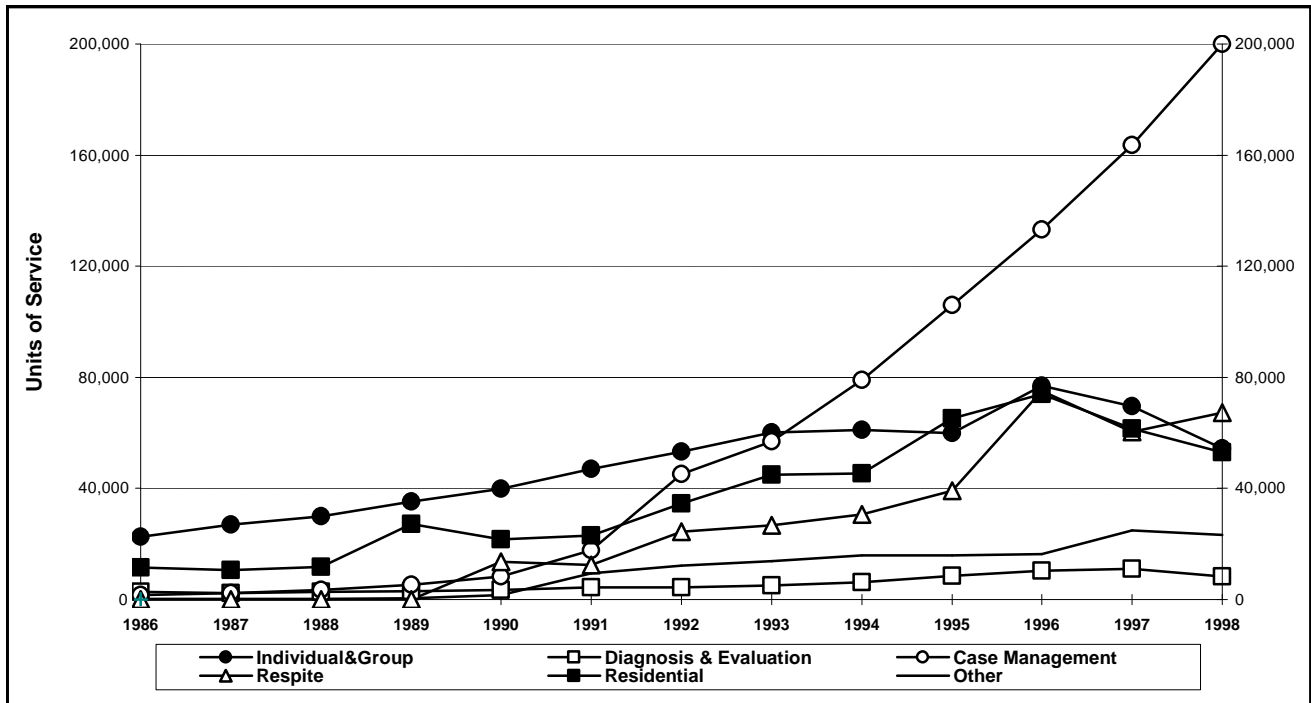
Before this information can be a useful indicator of program performance, it is important to attend to two questions. First, do these data provide a complete and accurate picture of the activities of Children's Services programs in Vermont? Second, how do the observed patterns compare to our values and expectations about appropriate patterns of community mental health services to children and adolescents.

These observations also lead to a number of "next questions". Are the observed differences in practice patterns at different community mental health centers related to differences in caseload characteristics at the different programs? Do children and adolescents in different demographic and clinical groups receive different services? Finally, are differences in practice patterns related to differences in the outcome of care for children and adolescents?

As always, we look forward to your comments, questions, and suggestions for future research (802-241-2638; [jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us)).

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAMS

## SERVICES PROVIDED, FY1986 - FY1998

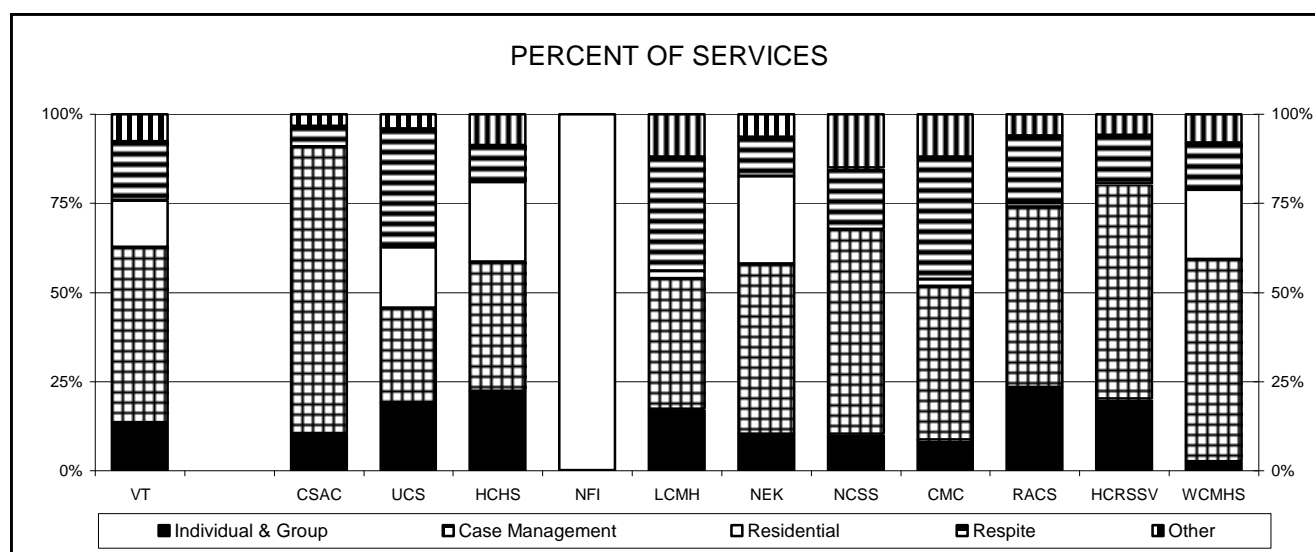
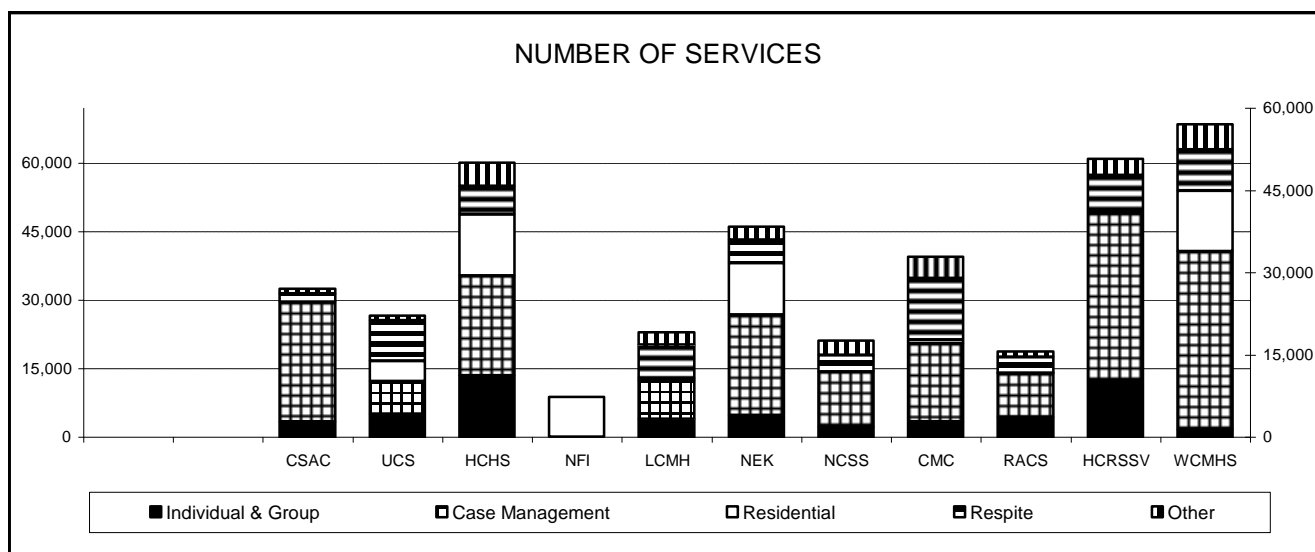


Fiscal Year	Individual & Group Treatment Hours			Case Management Hours	Diagnosis & Evaluation Hours	Respite Hours	Residential Days	Other Services	Total
	Individual	Group	Total						
1998	44,525	9,823	54,348	199,942	8,242	67,217	53,065	23,203	406,017
1997	58,061	11,515	69,576	163,485	11,044	60,438	61,460	24,932	390,934
1996	62,095	14,926	77,021	133,127	10,410	75,031	74,025	16,341	438,770
1995	42,373	17,648	60,020	106,684	8,630	39,286	65,200	14,546	294,365
1994	43,638	17,364	61,002	79,137	6,300	30,622	45,313	16,001	238,374
1993	43,797	16,454	60,251	56,989	5,017	26,678	44,932	13,857	207,724
1992	39,890	13,350	53,240	45,194	4,374	24,502	34,548	12,134	173,992
1991	37,625	9,451	47,077	17,737	4,287	12,360	22,968	9,527	113,955
1990	31,825	8,070	39,895	8,328	3,378	13,544	21,612	1,584	88,340
1989	28,006	7,142	35,149	5,241	2,894	--	27,192	416	70,891
1988	22,932	7,069	30,000	3,385	2,691	--	11,655	285	48,017
1987	21,588	5,303	26,891	2,304	2,294	--	10,662	296	42,447
1986	19,971	2,502	22,473	1,628	2,798	--	11,570	214	38,683

Information is based on quarterly service reports submitted by Vermont's community service providers. "Other Services" include chemotherapy visits, consultation & education hours, day services visits, and emergency care hours. Outpatient services in support of residential care at NFI are not reported separately. Emergency placement days for HCHS was converted to hours and placed in individual psychotherapy.

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAMS

## SERVICES PROVIDED, FY1998



Region/Provider	Individual & Group Treatment Hours		Case Management/Special Rehabilitation		Residential Days		Respite Hours		Other Services		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Addison - CSAC	3,377	10%	26,130	80%	0	--	1,868	6%	1,127	3%	32,502
Bennington - UCS	5,049	19%	7,105	27%	4,531	17%	8,870	33%	1,092	4%	26,647
Chittenden - HCHS	13,398	22%	21,862	36%	13,475	22%	6,182	10%	5,244	9%	60,161
- NFI	--	0%	--	0%	8,850	100%	--	0%	--	0.0%	8,850
Total	13,398	19%	21,862	32%	22,325	32%	6,182	9%	5,244	8%	69,011
Lamoille - LCMHS	3,944	17%	8,415	37%	495	2%	7,327	32%	2,747	12%	22,928
Northeast - NEK	4,704	10%	22,038	48%	11,365	25%	5,056	11%	2,939	6%	46,101
Northwest - NCSS	2,181	10%	12,137	57%	0	--	3,631	17%	3,186	15%	21,135
Orange - CMC	3,393	9%	17,061	43%	798	2%	13,551	34%	4,753	12%	39,556
Rutland - RACS	4,366	23%	9,483	51%	208	1%	3,520	19%	1,153	6%	18,730
Southeast - HCRSSV	12,246	20%	36,797	60%	0	0%	8,251	14%	3,659	6%	60,953
Washington - WCMHS	1,691	2%	38,915	57%	13,343	19%	8,963	13%	5,544	8%	68,455
Total	54,348	13%	199,942	49%	53,065	13%	67,217	17%	31,445	8%	406,017

Information is based on Quarterly Service Reports submitted by Vermont's Community Service Providers. "Other Services" include diagnosis & evaluation hours, chemotherapy visits, consultation & education hours, and emergency care hours, and excludes transportation. For NFI, residential services include therapeutic foster care, individualized care (wraparound), and emergency beds.